

# HAMILTON LIFE.

*The Weekly Publication of Hamilton College.*

Vol. V.

CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1902.

No. 4.

## 'Varsity, 12 ; Scrub, 0.

The scrub game last Saturday, which took the place of the cancelled Potsdam game, was chiefly noteworthy for the excellent showing of the second team. During the first half the 'varsity hammered out two hard-earned touchdowns, though the scrub contested every yard and at times made steady gains with the ball. The scrub opened the second half with great dash and aided by Coach Berrien's splendid punting soon forced the play into the 'varsity's territory. Despite the most desperate resistance of the regulars, the scrub circled the ends and plunged through the line for substantial gains, and just before the call of time concluded a steady advance of about fifty yards with the ball in hand, by a trial at field-goal, which narrowly missed scoring.

For the 'varsity, Captain Peet, Hosmer, Bramley, Blakely and Wills played well; the work of the two latter men in breaking through and getting under punts being especially good. Berrien, Davis and Dowling showed up prominently on the scrub, while Mangan's plunging and end running was in a way the feature of the game. Saturday's game stamps the scrub as one of the best the college has ever had, and this being the case, a corresponding increase in the strength of the 'varsity is sure to follow. Line-up:

'Varsity.	Scrub.
Roosa, MacIntyre, R. E.	Soper.
Barrows, H. R. T.	Thompson.
Speh. R. G.	Ehret.
Blakeley. C.	Merrick.
Wills. L. G.	Barrows, F.
DeVotie. L. T.	Dowling.
Sicard. L. E.	Evans.
Bramley. Q.	Robinson.
Hosmer. R. H.	Pratt.
Peet, (Capt.) H. H.	Mangan.
Mann. F. Berrien.	France.

Touchdowns—Hosmer, 2. Goals—DeVotie, 2. Time of halves—20 and 15 minutes. Umpire—R. H. Jones, '03. Timer—H. T. Maxwell, '03.

## On English Translations.

*To the Editors of Life.*

In response to your request the writer submits the following comment in regard to the question which has been discussed among our students during the past few days and which has also received considerable editorial comment in the public press.

The question regarding the use of English translations in the preparation of language work is one of fundamental importance to every college man and to every patron of a college or a preparatory school where youths are sent to make the best use of their time. The study of languages occupies a large amount of time both in the school and in the college. Anything which impairs the value of this work is of vital interest to all persons concerned.

There should be no misunderstanding of the real meaning and purpose of the resolution of the officers of the college, as it has been made public, but Hamilton men should note carefully that the official announcement is not that which has been reported in various papers and that much gratuitous advice is being offered us on all sides. Young men should not be misled or influenced by unsigned criticism. We have no assurance that any of the suggestions made for our benefit come from an expert source, *i. e.*, from experienced and successful teachers of languages or even from men who have had the advantages of scientific training in languages. We are inclined to be suspicious about this because we believe that men who know languages well enough to give expert advice and instruction to others, are less familiar with the use and practical value of translations in the preparation of the daily lessons. We are of those who believe that the only safe advice on technical matters is that of experts, who know by study and long experience whereof they speak. For this reason we consult a trained and skilled surgeon for

the delicate operation, and the trained and successful teachers of language when we want to know something of the best methods of learning a language. After diligent search, covering many years and a long study of some of these problems, the writer admits that he has not found a single successful scholar and teacher of languages, ancient or modern, who holds a view dissenting from that of the members of your faculty. It must be remembered that the question is on the subject of English translations as commonly used by young men in college and (I regret to say it) by many boys in preparatory schools.

The writer has sufficient acquaintance with the ideals of Hamilton to understand fully that genuineness, solidity and earnestness of purpose are qualities not only appreciated but absolutely demanded by sentiment on this Hill, demanded alike by students and officers. Men of Hamilton, graduates and students, have high regard for scholarly attainment and strong, consistent character. Hamilton is favorably known in the college world as an institution which clings to the classical course. The classics are retained, and with reason. There is a place for such colleges in this country, and the large universities recognize the value and importance of good small colleges to the cause of sound higher education. All men interested in Hamilton will welcome every endeavor to promote sound scholarship and high attainment. The methods pursued must be sound and defensible. It is with this in view, with full knowledge of the facts and the purpose to promote the interests of all concerned, that your faculty (the writer makes these statements unofficially and purely personally) brings to the attention of all students that language study should be pursued seriously and rationally. It is mere pretence to pass through a classical course without acquiring some definite knowledge of the classical languages. The study of Latin, for example, means the thorough and



scientific study of that tongue and after the necessary amount of foundation work, it means passing on to the study of the literature written in that language, the study of the relation of that literature to other world literatures, the study of the history and genius of the Roman people, the study of the position of this people in the history of civilization and their contribution to modern times. As purported by the resolution, the study of Latin does not mean skimming through books about Latin, as though one learned to handle tools by reading about them, or as though one learned the processes by which an equation is solved by skipping all the intermediate steps, even the knowledge of the multiplication table or the sum of two and two, and turned lazily and conveniently to some one of the numerous keys prepared for student—and teacher—alike, and copied down the correct answer. Language study offers numerous equations to be solved every day. They are not expressed in figures but they are expressed in letters, and more often in words. They are to be solved at every moment and almost unconsciously—not so at first, then painfully, and with conscious effort, but as familiarity advances, these equations are solved accurately and rapidly. Persons who prate about the impracticality of linguistic studies as a disciplinary training, do not know the mathematical side of these studies. Now, all of this strengthening and basic work is lost if students do not train the eye, the ear and the analytical and reasoning faculties by genuine application until a facility has been acquired, but instead, leap over all the necessary and intermediate steps by mounting at once through some artificial device to “a contemplation of literature through a cheap and literal translation.” The fool says, “I shall not learn the multiplication table, I have one in my pocket, always handy and accurate.” The humbug says, “I want a diploma written in a language I cannot read.” The writer believes that there is no cause for defending a resolution which does not sanction shams, and underhand or sleight-of-hand methods of procedure. The student should make use of all real helps. That only is a help to him which teaches him to help himself. The only real help for a college student in the acquisition of language is industry, persistent effort, determination. Some will reach a high degree of proficiency, some only a moderate degree, and some will fail. It is so

in all subjects. Don't expect to level off the points of difficulty and obstruction by a uniform method of riding over all the eminences and obstacles, by any sham device which makes the subject equally smooth travelling for all alike!

One word to relieve a misunderstanding. By tradition handed down from olden times, in colleges, boarding schools, and all institutions where pupils and teachers come together, there has been a feeling that the surreptitious use of outside helps, if the teacher is properly outwitted and deceived, was perfectly legitimate and proper. College men, in good colleges, will require that such juvenile methods be left at the college portal by every youth who asks for membership in a company of men who believe in manliness, honor and self-improvement.

It is not the business of college professors to do police duty, within the class-room or out of it. The fact that translations are used surreptitiously and that no man is willing to stand up and say, “I am cheating myself, I am a pretender, I shall sham while I am in college, but then when *real life* begins I shall suddenly stand on my own legs and develop independent character and scholarship,” should appeal to the moral sense, and to common sense. One form of *cheating* or *shamming* is just as bad as another.

There is much talk about the value of translations from a literary point of view. All scholars are acquainted with the most important translations of their favorite authors. Men of Hamilton know that literary translations are brought into the class-rooms and read to the students and criticized. Even students learn that the best literary translations by the best poets who have undertaken such tasks are for the most part inferior to the original and are inadequate. None feel this inadequacy more than the poets themselves. It is the business of the instructor to see that his men understand *why any kind of translation is inadequate*. Translation is really only a makeshift, a means to an end. Real scholars do not prate about the superiority of this and that translation. As pieces of English, some of them are admirable and beautiful. The ideal which every student of language should hold up before himself is the reading of the language without translating. It is ridiculous to talk forever about the beauty of the verses of Catullus or Horace and then hear them only

in a tongue which these poets never heard. To derive almost the least benefit from a foreign language, the language itself must speak to the student. In this sense, which is the only sound and scientific sense, translation is not the great ideal—it is surely not the only thing.

Most of our critics think that the classics are still taught as they were fifty or a hundred years ago. Professors of the dead languages must necessarily be behind the times, impractical, wooden. All critics start from this assumption. The whole science of philology, the scientific study of languages and literatures, is only a hundred years old, and all the impetus which has made philology, ancient and modern, one of the liveliest sciences of the day and one pursued by most exact and scientific methods, and with most fruitful and definite results, was born within the memory of men still living. There is no more up-to-date body of men in this country than the expert students of language. The languages of Greece and Rome are made to speak as they have not spoken since the days of old. Let the colleges, and more than that, let the high schools and fitting schools, abolish all sham work in language study, and the classical scholarship in this country will assume within one generation a much higher level of attainment and efficiency; and whatever helps the classics will also help modern language study, especially the Romance tongues. The writer is aware that most of the criticism is directed against the classical studies. There has been much just criticism. Fossils have appeared in all strata of classical study, everywhere. Today the philologist must be a trained man, one expert in his special work, both in subject matter and in method of treatment. For Hamilton the resolution is a good one. Others may or may not follow our example. Students of Hamilton are meeting this proposition manfully, and the writer wishes to assure them that he is already in receipt of letters of approval and congratulation from some of the most distinguished scholars and teachers in this country. J. J. ROBINSON.

—The spectacle on Steuben Field at the last line-up on Wednesday was a sight for sore eyes. Enthusiasm ran high, encouraged the teams, and made the practice successful above anything else we have seen this year.



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Thursday—"Colorado." Prices, 25, 50, 75, \$1.00.

Friday and Saturday evening with matinee Saturday—"Fisherman's Daughter." Prices, 15, 25, 35, 50; matinee, 25.

**The Orpheum.**

Those who have visited the Orpheum this week have been highly pleased with the program offered in that theatre. Every act on the bill is one of standard excellence. The honors lie between George Thatcher and Jules and Ella Garrison. The latter team are doing a travesty turn of merit. They burlesque everything from tragedy to the murderous melo-drama, but all so artistically as to leave none but feelings of mirth. Thatcher is the same old comedian, full of irresistible wit and humor, and telling his stories with that subtle style that has made him such a favorite. Other strong features are the three Rio Brothers, Barry and Connors, the Laskys and Pauline Saxon. Among the announcements for next week are Ellsworth and Burt, Charley Loder, the German comedian; the Livingstons, sensational acrobats; Naight and Dean, Claudius and Corbin, and Parker's Dogs and several others.

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# Hamilton Life.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

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Subscription price, \$1.75 a year. Single copies, 5 cents each. Advertising rates given on application to the Business Manager.

## A HOP.

Plans for the promised sophomore hop seem to be taking definite form. Last spring after the freshman frolic, it was rumored that a hop would be given this fall, and it is now assured. The plan is to give it late in November to take the place of the old "prom" which comes now in February, partly displaced by and partly in favor of football. This year, however, the football season closes on November 22, and there is plenty of time after that before the reviews. We understand that the committee has already been selected. The place where the dance will be given is not definitely settled yet; but the "Gym." has been considered rather strongly. If it is to be held there, it must assume the character and dignity of a ball. But will the college sufficiently patronize such a dance at this time? It is certainly a debatable question, with the weight of argument on the negative. To us it would seem wiser to come nearer to the character of the frolic and engage Society Hall in the village. The floor there is certainly better than ours on the hill. Here it could be carried on a better financial basis, and we think the affair would net more credit to the sophomore class, and to the College. Too extensive plans miscarried, or immatured in fact would be worse than no plans at all. The student body will support heartily a fall dance of modest proportions, but will hardly be willing to guarantee full justice to the dignity of a ball. The College will do its best by the sophomores whatever they decide to do in this matter. But the committee would do well to test the general sentiment before coming to decision. The

reappearance of the hop is a sign of progress, and '05 is to be commended.

## UNION AND HAMILTON.

Last Saturday, Hamilton decided by a unanimous vote of its student body to play football with Union College. It is probable that the game asked for by Union cannot be arranged; but this is not material to the principal fact that the two colleges are willing to resume athletic relations, after a break of three years. It is not important nor pleasant to review the causes that led to this break. It is a satisfaction to record that the wound has been healed. Union always was a worthy opponent. It is always interesting to strive with such an opponent.

## FOR COLLEGE EDUCATION.

The editor of *Who's Who* says that seventy per cent. of the men appearing in his book are college men. He makes a still stronger statement in saying that after excluding lawyers, doctors and clergymen, sixty per cent. of the rest have had a collegiate education. Yes! but who decides Who's who in America? Well, the editor and compiler is a non-college man, and furthermore a highly practical and shrewd business man, politician and newspaper worker. The principles guiding him in this publication give him no special excuse to favor an academic, or university course; but look simply toward recording names of those who are doing the really important things in life throughout our country, the men who are turning our wheels of progress. The purely commercial spirit of late years has attempted many arguments against higher education. Notable among the advocates of this mercenary view of life were Collis P. Huntington and Russell Sage, who wrote much on the subject. But the higher and nobler view of life, and, it seems, even the practical, must demand the highest knowledge of truth obtainable. The college works toward this very goal. What must be, will be—and indeed, in this particular, is, as the above statement proves.

At the request of the editorial board, Prof. Robinson has presented in this issue of LIFE his ideas on the recent action of the faculty censuring the use of translations in preparing language lessons. This stand of the faculty has

called forth much comment and it is fair to assume that neither side of the question has been exhausted. We sincerely believe that the sentiment of Hamilton students is at least passively against the use of translations. If this opinion is not entirely true and anyone in college wishes to present any arguments in favor of the "trot," LIFE will be glad to print them. We wish to thank Prof. Robinson for the article he has written and, in the same breath, to commend its careful perusal to every man in College.

MENTION has been already made of the irregularity of the mails in leaving the hill. They go and come at the convenience of the carrier. LIFE notes that the convenience of the carrier is the inconvenience of those for whom the mail is carried and suggests that an effort be made to this defect. We are entitled to better service than we have been having this fall.

HAMILTON is far-famed on account of her speaking and there is little doubt that the freedom allowed the students in criticizing a speaker has had much to do with the fame. Freedom is a good thing, but we should be very careful how we express it. Toward the speaker it is all right, but when it comes to such a pass as it did last Wednesday, when a lady and two gentlemen took seats in the gallery during the exercises, then it becomes somewhat obnoxious. On this occasion, as soon as the visitors appeared in the gallery, almost all the students turned around and stared at them. The act was undoubtedly done thoughtlessly, but it was nevertheless impolite, if not actually rude. Visitors are always welcome, and as such should be treated cordially and politely by the student body.

## Gentlemen! The "Lit."

The *Hamilton Literary Magazine* will make its first appearance for this college year, Monday. This number will begin the thirty-seventh volume. In all except its external appearance it is a new "Lit." And it is a good "Lit.," for it has much to commend and little to criticize harshly. Its editors are to be congratulated, a little, perhaps; but Hamilton is to be congratulated, much, surely; that its monthly magazine has fallen into good hands.

At the head of the "Alumniana" is a note from the new editor of that depart-



ment, telling that Prof. North, "Old Greek," has been obliged to discontinue the work he has so long and so well done. Prof. Squires now edits the alumni notes, and Prof. Root is the necrologist. Not so long, but just as truly as "Old Greek" has loved the College, they have loved it; and their work will be well done.

MacIntyre's freshman prize essay, "Naval Progress in the 19th Century," is the first article. It is a good essay or it would not have taken the prize. But it is too long for the "Lit." The *Record* did a favor to the "Lit." when it published the prize essays last June and thus made impossible the continuation of the practice of spreading them over eight numbers of the college monthly. These essays are always the judgment of inexperience on expert matters and are poor reading. Instead of them will be published shorter essays on subjects with which students are acquainted, and in which originality may be displayed. Only three other contributions are signed. One is "The Guide's Story," by Duncan '06. It has the merit of brevity and of promise in the handling of conversation. Toll '04 has a short essay, "Character Contrast in Coriolanus," and he handles his subject in a bright, natural manner. "The Blessed Crank" is three pages of humor that carries you along pleasantly, and you don't realize until the end that you have read a sermon or, better, half a dozen little sermons. It is by E. P. Powell '53, and it makes even a careless student hope that he may grow old as sweetly as the writer of these little sermons seems to have done.

In addition to these articles there are two poems and a sketch, "The Blast." After two pages of editorials is a page headed "Criticus," a departure for the "Lit." "Criticus" must be a queer fellow, for he philosophizes like an old man, talks like a student, and uses French like a dramatic critic. But what he says he says well; and he has something to say. In fact, this quality of having "something to say" is characteristic of this number of the "Lit."

**Prof. Smyth Will Stay.**

Prof. Delos Smyth has been honored by the offer of a position as superintendent of schools in Binghamton. The position offers many advantages, not the least of which is a big salary. It is Binghamton's loss and Hamilton's gain that Prof. Smyth has elected to remain at Hamilton.

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### College Notes.

- "Pretty" suggests alarm clocks.
- Getman '85 visited his Alma Mater on last Saturday.
- Carmer would like special attention called to his last oration.
- Sicard '06 has been troubled during the past week by a sprained ankle.
- LeMunyan '06 sprained his ankle during gymnasium class last Friday.
- Post ex-'05 is expected to return to college this year and enter the freshman class.
- "Pretty's" saloon is to be fully equipped with an assortment of "hot stuff."
- Crumb '05 endeavors to convince "Hank" White in Bible recitation that 14-4 is about 4.
- The team plays at Columbia today and we are looking for it to give a good account of itself.
- The ivy which has been planted at the Commons shows that that building belongs to Hamilton.
- "Prex" announces that absences in Parliamentary Law will necessitate the making up of the work lost.
- The number of freshmen who united with the College church at the last communion was unusually small.
- Hutton's dissertation on the right and wrong uses of gambling was much appreciated by his classmates.
- Prof. Wilbur is conducting a philosophical study of character in connection with the study of Plato's apology.
- Willis G. Carmer, '85, superintendent of the public schools of Albion, N. Y., visited the college Thursday.
- A committee from the New York Synod of the Presbyterian Church, visited Hamilton on a tour of inspection.
- Thursday night of last week, when calling their men together, the freshmen were heard to yell, "Slimers this way."
- Heacock ex-'05 spent a few days on the hill during the past week. He intends to enter college at the opening of winter term.
- Owens '03 and Farey '05 who have been down with the fever, were on the hill yesterday, but were sent home again for precaution.
- Sherman '06 generously passing pears around to upperclassmen, says by way of explanation: "They are green yet, but I like 'em."
- "Capt." Davis is giving daily instruction to freshmen in the art of "ducking". His tutoring thus far has been very successful.

—The freshmen thought it the proper stunt to serenade Houghton, and particularly the "five additional members," in celebration of their field day victory.

—Dickinson '05 asks permission to read his Beispeil from the book. "Schnitz" replies, "You are no fresh man, are you?" Dickinson is squelched.

—The recent announcement by Prof. White relative to the printing in the *Lit.* of the best sophomore essays which are read in chapel, is a great stride in progress.

—At the last meeting of 1905, a committee on a sophomore hop was appointed. Thus a college dance for this term is assured and will in all probability take place after the football season.

—The fact that the faculty of Hamilton have expressed emphatically their disapproval of English translations, has caused considerable comment throughout the country and several editorials have appeared in the papers approving this action.

—Everyone enjoyed the change in the regime of Wednesday chapels caused by Ehret's appearance on Wednesday. A little humor or wit helps very much to enliven the exercise and brings interest and pleasure to the audience. Let others follow this junior's example and deviate from the old-time "decks" to something that is witty and novel.

### Concerning the Glee Club.

*To the Editor of Hamilton Life:*

Now that the Glee Club is in process of reorganization for the coming year, perhaps a few pertinent suggestions at this time may not be amiss. The writer firmly believes that the opportunity is great, and the prospect of sending out an unusually strong club this year, the brightest. But it seems to him, after considerable reflection, that the matter must be considered more seriously than at present.

Last year there were three drawbacks to the club's success, due, no doubt, to the inexperience or the misjudgment of the management. I am referring now to the following points:

In the first place, the club had but two songs, out of all its number, that were suitable to be sung by a club, namely, either one of our college songs,—*"Carissima"* or the *"Hurrah"* song, and the *"Stein Song."* It is preposterous to suppose for a minute that a club can score a success with old, senseless, catchless, worn-out music. Do you remember the

frost that "Old King Cole" scored at Vernon last winter? The average audience wishes to hear up-to-date songs sung by a club. I have heard the clubs of Yale, Wesleyan, Rutgers, Cornell, Brown, Columbia and New York University; of these the last named is almost unquestionably the best. I was informed last summer by the leader of this club that "the club sang popular songs; the soloists mostly sang classical music, such as 'The Rosary' and 'A Dream'." These were sung as entirely separate and distinct solos; other solos were sung by different men in the club who were accompanied by the club in the chorus. Let us have some up-to-date music. "Molly Shannon", "Mah Carolina Lady", "In the Good Old Summer Time", and other popular songs—all of these would score a simply tremendous hit with an audience; the writer knows whereof he speaks, and he urges most earnestly that such songs as these be considered. This is the principal point. The choruses of these songs are easy to arrange in parts; and as for soloists, there are at least three men in College, exclusive of Mr. Hawley, who have sung, and who are perfectly capable of singing solo work. It is one of the purposes of a club to bring out such men; let them be tried. Let us relegate "Old King Cole" to the bin as a has-been; and as for "Little Girl, Don't Cry", she ought to have been buried, these many moons.

In the second place, the club should be larger. It is understood that it is the intention of the manager to take a club of eighteen men on trips this year; twenty is none too large, but eighteen would do. Such being the case, there is no further criticism on this point; it is perfectly evident from last year that a club of twelve is too small.

Lastly, a respectable trip ought to be taken. Trips to Vernon, Oriskany Falls and other such villages are good enough for practice, but they don't look well printed in the *Hamiltonian*, and they don't give the College a very desirable musical reputation among outsiders and sub-freshmen with voices. So let us have a trip to towns of respectable size. It has been suggested that a trip could be made with profit by going to Albany, and "singing back to Utica,"—stopping at Albany, Schenectady, Fonda, Johnstown, St. Johnsville and Utica. This trip would take just a week, and properly advertised, would pay. The trip last year of the N. Y. U. clubs, for in-



stance, embraced concerts at Wellesley, Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Vassar, Barnard and Bryn Mawr. Consider the possibilities of such a trip as this!

The writer makes these suggestions in the kindest possible spirit; he earnestly recommends their consideration; he wishes the club all success, both in this season and in those to come. If Hamilton is to be known at all in music, let her have as fair a name as she has in her other activities. Given good music and a good trip—the managers need not worry for the interest of the college body.

MUSICAL.

**Church and Y. M. C. A.**

Dr. Fitch will address the meeting tomorrow at 4 p. m., on the History of the of the Greek New Testament. This talk will be valuable to all interested to know how authoritative is this ancient record.

The Bible study classes were organized last Sunday. The number of men so far enrolled is 30.

The classes in the Life of Christ and the Mission Study Class will meet after chapel tomorrow. The class in "Old Testament Characters," in charge of Dr. Wood, will begin its sessions Nov. 2.

The class prayer meetings are becoming now a regular thing. The attendance is increasing. Let us put into them enthusiasm and class spirit, and get out of them inspiration for our whole lives.

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